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### Prominent KP pharmacy...

killing of Bindroo have no religion as the killing of unarmed persons is never justified in any religion. I express my solidarity with the family members of Bindroo and urge police to expose and punish his killers, sooner than better," Thakur said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah also condemned the killing.

"What terrible news! He was a very kind man. I've been told he never left during the height of militancy and remained with his shop open. I condemn this killing in the strongest possible terms & convey my heartfelt condolences to his family. God bless his soul," Omar tweeted.

People's Conference chief Sajad Lone also condemned the killing.

"The fatal attack against the owner of Bindroo medicates is outrageous and unacceptable. I knew the gentleman personally. He never left the valley. And terrorists made him pay for that. May he live in peace," Lone tweeted. CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said he had no words to condemn such a heinous and shameful act.

"His unfortunate death has sent shockwaves. No words to condemn such a heinous and shameful act. This is indeed an irreparable loss for the whole society," he said.

Condemning the killing of yet another innocent member of the minority community by terrorists in Srinagar, President Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, K K Khosa said it is a highly deplorable act clearly aimed at creating a scare within the minorities and also vitiating the environment all over again.

"The GoI and the UT government have clearly failed in their duties to ensure safety and security of all innocent people especially those belonging to the minority community," he said and asked the GOI and UT to own up responsibility and stop resorting to purely cosmetic treatment of the Kashmir situation.

This dastardly killing should serve as an eye opener for the GOI about the undercurrents in the valley and it is indicative of the complete failure of their Kashmir policy in this respect.

The perpetrators of these unfortunate killings go scot free after committing these crimes which clearly shows that over ground workers and harboomers are present in large numbers and need to be unearthed and neutralized with a heavy hand right now, he said.

### From Apr 2022...

fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles is likely to be in force from April 1, 2023, and the same will be in place in a phased manner for other categories from June 1, 2024.

The fitness norm is not uniform in the country. In the case of Delhi, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has passed an order banning all diesel vehicles that are over 10 years old from plying on the roads.

According to an official statement, in the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, it is proposed to have a system of incentives and disincentives to nudge vehicle owners to discard old and polluting vehicles, which have higher maintenance and fuel consumption costs.

It said that as an incentive, there will be waiver of the fee for issue of the certificate of registration for a new vehicle, purchased against the authority of the certificate of deposit (CoD) issued by a registered vehicle scrapping facility for a vehicle being scrapped.

As regards disincentives, the statement said there will be an increase in the fee for conducting fitness test and renewal of fitness certificate for motor vehicles more than 15 years old.

Besides, there will also be an increase in the renewal of registration fee for personal vehicles (non-transport vehicles) more than 15 years old, the statement said.

### Procurement of 114...

India initiative...We are moving the case further," he said, replying to a question on the mega procurement.

The top contenders for the deal include Lockheed Martin's F-21, Boeing's F/A-18, Dassault Aviation's Rafale, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Russian aircraft MiG 35 and Saab's Gripen.

When asked whether the IAF would go for an additional 36 Rafale aircraft to deal with immediate requirements, the Chief of Air Staff suggested that the fighter jet could be one of the contenders for the MRFA project.

Last year, the then IAF Chief RKS Bhadauria did not rule out procurement of more Rafale jets, and said the induction of the French-made multi-role aircraft has given the Indian Air Force an operational edge to strike "deep and hard".

## NSS Unit-1 of GGM Sc College celebrates World Teacher Day

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSS Unit 1 of GGM Science College Jammu organized a lecture to sensitize the students to raise awareness about the importance of world teacher day and to inspire positive approach towards the preservation of the culture and rich traditions in connection with the World Teacher Day. The webinar was arranged under the guidance of principle Dr. Ravender Tickoo and supervision of Dr. Narinder Kumar NSS PO, on the theme, 'Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery of World Teacher's Day 2021'. The theme recognises teachers for their tireless efforts to keep teaching even during hardships like COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Ashiq Hussain a well known educationist was the resource person on the occasion. In his lecture, Dr. Hussain threw a detailed light on the importance of world teacher day. During his



NSS volunteers along with faculty during the event.

interaction, while focussing on the importance of such day, he added that world teacher day is one such event to which students and teachers equally look forward and this day is so important for the students as it gives them a chance to understand the efforts put in by their teachers to ensure that they get a proper education. He added that teachers shape future generations, dedicating one day each year to thanking them is the least we can do. Remember that teachers are important no matter where

you are on the globe today!

He underlined that the self disciplined, commitment and belongingness of the teacher toward noble profession of teaching can not only help world produced the better citizens and hence building stronger and healthier globe but also ensure the addressing of sustainable development.

Earlier, NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar in his welcome address gave a brief introduction that UNESCO created the World Teacher's Day to celebrate teachers

which play a vital role in the development of each individual in 1994 he added. While conducting the proceeding of the programme, he apprised the audience that the day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 UNESCO/ ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This day is celebrated to recognize the rights and responsibilities of teachers and focuses on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world he underlined.

At the end of the programme, large number of NSS volunteers, and students who had joined the webinar from different colleges of Jammu and Kashmir UT, took a pledge as students, it is our duty to thank them at least once a year and Teachers' Day gives us an ideal opportunity to do so.

The webinar ended with a special vote of thanks by the NSS PO.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Considering the need to protect the rights of Senior Citizen and the right to live with Dignity as guaranteed by the Constitution of India under Article 21, District Legal Services Authority Reasi on Tuesday organised a Legal Awareness Program on the topic of NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme-2016" for the Senior

Citizens of District Reasi here at Day Care Centre (Ahata Waqar) Reasi. The awareness program was held in compliance with the Action plan issued by Legal Services Authority of UT of J&K under PAN India Awareness and Outreach Campaign and under the supervision and guidance of DLSA chairman R.N. Watal. The Secretary District Legal Services Authority enlightened

## Public hearing for Minor Mineral Mining held at village Jullas

### STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Pollution Control Committee Poonch, under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Basharat Hussain (Additional District Magistrate) today held a public hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Material) Block No.04, Area, 8.86 Ha. of river Surat Downstream Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge part IV District Poonch.

Divisional Officer Pollution Control Committee, Mukesh Singh Bali; Representative of Regional Director JKPC Jammu, Anupam Koul; District mineral Officer and other officials of Pollution Control Committee were also present on the public hearing proceedings.

The locals of the affected areas raised various issues, concerns related to the proposed mining project.

All their issues/concerns were videographed /Photographed during the proceedings of public hearing. Rajesh Kumar, Environmental Consultant presented a detailed resume of the proposed project and disseminated the necessary awareness among the public and emphasized them about the illegal effects of illegal mining.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner made the locals and PRIs members aware about the proposed Minor Mineral Mining project in detail, and listened to their demands patiently.

There has been a view among some officials in the military establishment that the IAF should at least have four squadrons of Rafale jets considering its operational aspects. There are 18 aircraft in a squadron.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said procurement of 114 jets under the MRFA project and acquisition of 83 Light Combat Aircraft Tejas will help the IAF significantly in the face of a gradual drop in the number of fighter squadrons due to phasing out of the fleets of Jaguar, Mirage and the MiG 29.

He also said that the IAF is fully committed to the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) aircraft project.

India is also working on an ambitious USD 5 billion project to develop a fifth-generation medium weight deep penetration fighter jet to significantly bolster its air power capability.

The IAF chief said the force is looking at technologies for the aircraft that can integrate fifth and sixth generation technologies, adding the plan is to induct the AMCA by the early years of the next decade.

He said the IAF will not be able to reach the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons in the next 10-15 years notwithstanding all the planned acquisitions.

The Air Chief Marshal said the IAF would have 35 squadrons by the next decade with phasing out of old aircraft and induction of new ones.

### Over 92 Cr...

COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

### Govt hikes rates...

Benefit Packages (HBP 2.2) will strengthen the empanelled hospitals to provide better healthcare services to the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.

"The revised packages for oncology will enhance cancer care for the beneficiaries in the country. Addition of new packages related to black fungus will be a huge relief to the beneficiaries. I am sure that the rationalised HBP will further improve the uptake of scheme in private hospitals leading to reduced out-of-pocket expenditure for the beneficiaries, he said.

National Health Authority CEO Dr R S Sharma said the NHA constantly works on the feedback received from stakeholders for rationalisation of health benefit package.

State Health Agencies (SHAs) currently implementing any of the previous versions of HBP can now accept and implement HBP 2.2, Sharma said.

The NHA has undertaken rate revision in the categories which include radiation oncology procedures, medical management procedures like those for dengue, acute febrile illness etc, surgical package treatment for black fungus and other procedures like right/left heart catheterisation, PDA closure, arthrodesis, cholecystectomy, appendicectomy etc.

Currently, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY covers 1,669 treatment procedures out of which 1,080 are surgical, 588 medical and one unspecified package.

The Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY aims to achieve the target of universal health coverage and provide access to free and affordable healthcare services to the citizens residing in the remotest of the areas.

In 2018, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was launched with the HBP 1.0 with a total of 1,393 packages.

The scheme aims to provide free and cashless healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (over 53 crore beneficiaries) as per Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011 database.

Since the inception of the scheme, more than 2.2 crore eligible AB-PMJAY beneficiaries have been provided with health coverage for secondary, tertiary and day care procedures for treatment of diseases and medical conditions through a vast network of 24,000 Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP), the statement said,

The Health Benefit Package (HBP) defines the scope of healthcare services being provided and also determines the extent of financial risk protection to the beneficiaries, the statement said.

### SC asks Centre...

employment and this is the average figure.

Now in 2008, the figure of SCs and STs in government employment has come to 17.5 and 6.8 per cent respectively which are still low and justify such quota, he said.

The court will continue the hearing on Wednesday.

Earlier, the top court, on September 14, said that it would not reopen its decision

on granting reservation in promotions to the SCs and STs as it was for the states to decide how they implement it.

"We are making it very clear that we are not going to reopen Nagraj or Jarnail Singh (cases) because the idea was only to decide these cases in accordance with the law laid down by the court," the bench had said.

The issues framed by Attorney General K K Venugopal and the ones circulated by others are enhancing the scope of cases, it said.

"We are not willing to do that. There are certain issues that are already decided in Nagraj that also we are not going to take up. We are very clear that we are not going to permit any arguments for reopening of cases or arguing that law laid down from Indira Sawhney is wrong because the very scope of these cases is to apply the law as laid down by this court," the bench had said.

Venugopal had submitted before the apex court that nearly all these issues have been covered by judgements of the top court and he would give a background of all the cases on the issue of reservation since the Indira Sawhney case.

The Attorney General had said the problem of the Union of India is that there are three interim HC orders passed out which two say that promotions can continue to be made, while one HC has issued status quo orders on promotions.

"The Government of India has 1,400 posts (secretariat level) stagnating where no promotions could be made on a regular basis because all three orders dealt with regular promotions. The issue is whether the promotions for regular appointments can be continued to be made and whether it affects the reserved seats.

"There are another 2,500 posts stagnating for years due to status quo orders relating to regular promotions. The government wants to make those promotions on an adhoc basis without any rights," Venugopal had said while seeking a stay on a contempt plea against the government official.

Earlier, Maharashtra and other states had said the promotions have been made in unreserved categories, but promotions have not been granted in reserved categories for SC and ST employees.

In 2018, a five-judge constitution bench had refused to refer the 2006 judgement in the M Nagrav case, in which the creamy layer concept was extended to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to a larger seven-judge bench for reconsideration.

It had also paved the way for a grant of quota for promotions in the government jobs to SCs and STs and had modified the 2006 judgement to the extent that the states will not be required to "collect quantifiable data" reflecting the backwardness among these communities to justify the quota in promotions.

However, the top court, in 2018, had upheld the other conditions such as the governments will have to justify promotions in quota for SCs and STs by establishing that their representation in that particular kind of job is inadequate and this would not impact the overall administrative efficiency.

### Petrol, diesel prices...

diesel rates above Rs 100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

International oil prices rallied to a near seven-year high following a decision by OPEC+ to maintain its planned gradual increase of supply, despite the market facing an energy crunch. Global benchmark Brent jumped to USD 81.51 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate rose to USD 77.76 a barrel. Being a net importer of oil, India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices. A month back Brent was less than USD 72 per barrel.

With international crude oil prices moving in both directions during July and August, no price increase was carried out by oil marketing companies (OMCs) from July 18 to September 23. Instead, petrol price was cut by Rs 0.65 a litre and diesel by Rs 1.25. However, with no respite from surging international prices, OMCs have started to increase the retail selling price of petrol and diesel with effect from September 28 and September 24 respectively.

Since then, rates have gone up by Rs 2.45 paise per litre and petrol price has increased by Rs 1.50.

Prior to the July/August price cuts, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

The relentless increase in fuel prices has been criticised by opposition parties who have demanded that the government cut record excise duty on the two fuels to give relief to consumers.

The government has so far not agreed to the demand. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday refused to even comment on the high fuel prices.

Asked about the fuel prices at his ministry's event in the national capital on Saturday, Puri said, "ehodo (please leave it)" before walking away.

## Previous Government talked about providing food to poor but only BJP did it: Sat

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With a mission to provide free ration to the poor and needy under the nationwide scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), former Minister and Ex-MLA Jammu West Sat Sharma distributed free ration amongst a large number of families at New Rehri area, Ward 08 in a program organized by local Corporator Dr Akshay Sharma.

District President Munish Khajuria, District General Secretary Rajesh Gupta, local residents and political activists were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that after independence, almost every Government talked about providing cheap food to the poor but the scope and budget of cheap ration

schemes increased year after year, but the effect it should have had remained limited. He stated that now with the efforts of PM Modi the world has acknowledged the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and free ration has been made available to more than 80 crore people during the pandemic with the expenditure of more than Rs 2 lakh crore, he added.

He also stated that Ward wise teams in Jammu West and around Constituency are helping the public to avail benefits of various schemes.

Dr Akshay Sharma said that to ameliorate the hard-

ships faced by the poor and the needy due to economic disruptions caused by the pandemic, the Central Government through PMGKAY is helping the poor to overcome the problems. He also complimented Former MLA for going Ward wise and helping the poor and needy to take benefits of various Central sponsored schemes.

Anupam Gupta, Dr Surjit Singh, Naveen Sharma, Vipan Verma, Raman Sharma and several others were also present.

### 57,344 Kanals illegal revenue entries on forest land cancelled